



SURPRISE!
LOOK INSIDE
BACK COVER

JOEY AND GIGI



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JOEY and GIGI

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Little Joey lived with his father and mother on a farm. He had never been in a city. Gigi and her parents, who lived in a wonderful far-away land, came to visit. Bossy, the brown cow, did not seem to mind when Joey taught Gigi how to milk her.

The visit came to an end. Joey was lonely. He missed his playmate. He was happy when Gigi's family invited him to visit them. When spring brought warm winds, green fields, and gay flowers, Joey traveled in a shining airplane high above a vast blue sea to visit Gigi.





Joey was surprised. The buildings of the city were so tall, the streets filled with busy people and cars. At her home Gigi led Joey to the room prepared for him. She told him he was welcome to wear a nice coat outgrown by her big brother. Joey tried it on before a mirror.

"Bossy wouldn't know me," he cried.

"Bossy would say you look perfectly handsome," Gigi said.

"Bossy can't talk," Joey reminded her.

"Then Bossy would think it!" laughed Gigi.



Next morning Gigi took Joey to a nearby park. They had great fun launching a toy airplane which would fly far out from a hillside. When Joey, in his red sweater, became too warm they played on the swing in the cool shade of the big trees.

After much running about, and laughing, and swinging, suddenly they felt nearly starved. Gigi's mother had promised that bread and jam would be waiting for them. They raced to see who would reach the house first.



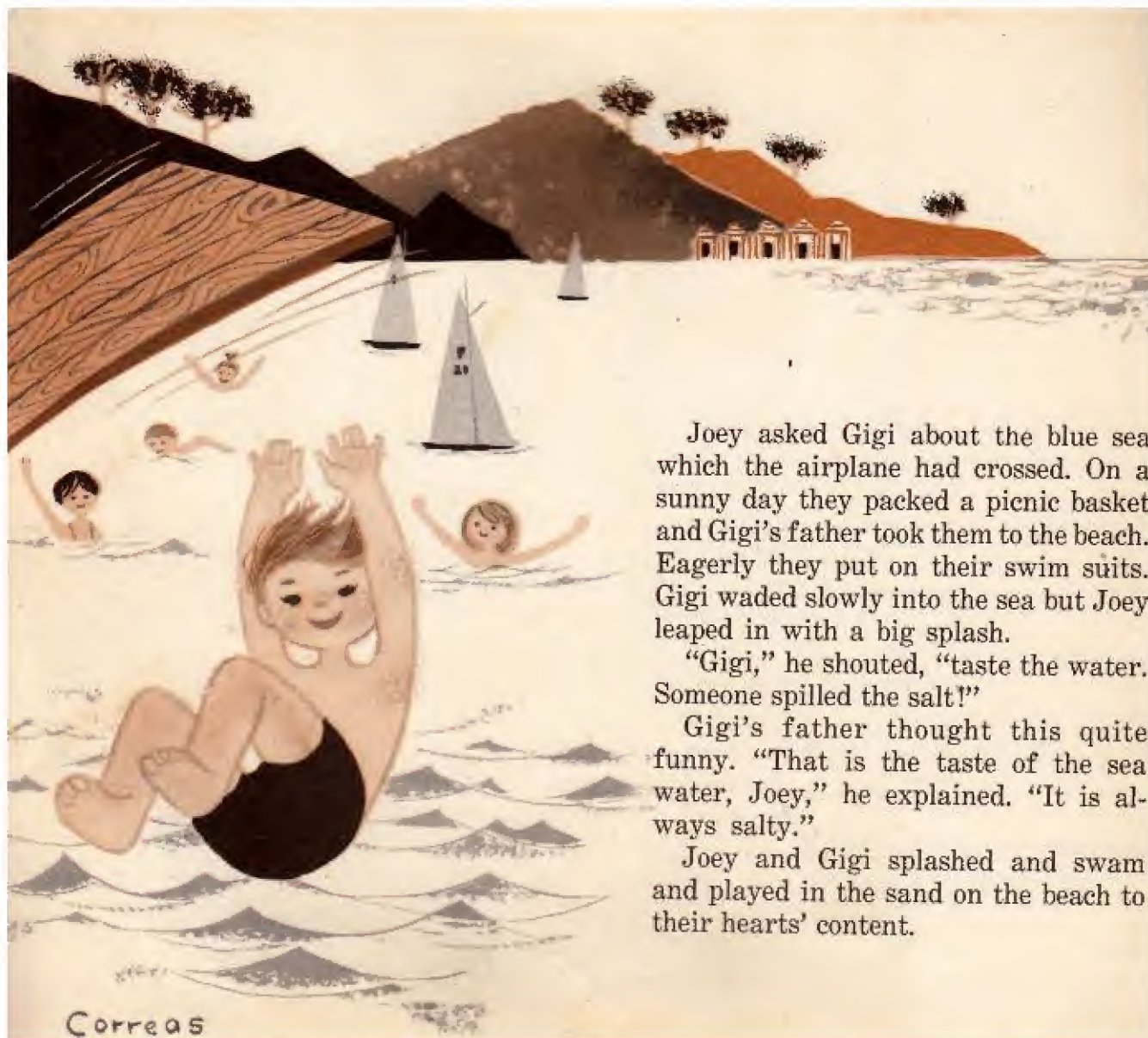




In the afternoon some of Gigi's playmates had a ball game. When one of the players hurt his foot, Joey was asked to put on a uniform and take his place.

The ball was round, like a basketball. The rules were strange but Joey's swift feet, his alertness, and quick thinking — which the days on the farm had given him — made him a skilful player. He was fortunate to make the last score and win victory for his team. This pleased Gigi and her playmates. It made Joey happy too!





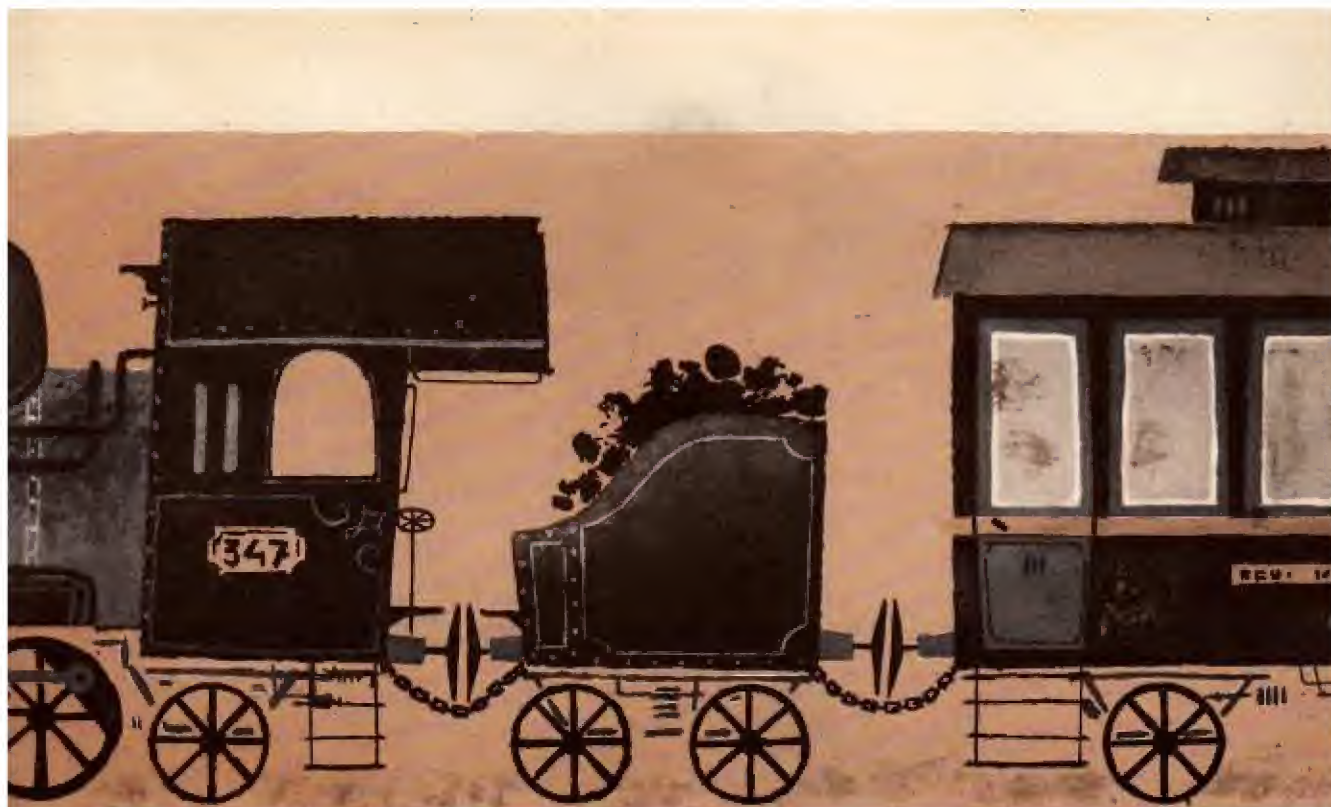
Joey asked Gigi about the blue sea which the airplane had crossed. On a sunny day they packed a picnic basket and Gigi's father took them to the beach. Eagerly they put on their swim suits. Gigi waded slowly into the sea but Joey leaped in with a big splash.

"Gigi," he shouted, "taste the water. Someone spilled the salt!"

Gigi's father thought this quite funny. "That is the taste of the sea water, Joey," he explained. "It is always salty."

Joey and Gigi splashed and swam and played in the sand on the beach to their hearts' content.





Gigi told Joey they must visit the mountains. They would carry knapsacks and make the first part of the journey by train. After that, their legs must do the climbing. Joined by lengths of stout rope Gigi, her father, and Joey explored the rocky peaks. On the heights the air was sparkling clear.

Joey and Gigi discovered that their voices could fly across the deep canyons and after a moment come bouncing back from the sides of the peaks.

"Oh," Joey shouted. "Answer me, echo!"

"Answer me, echo," sounded the echo solemnly.



Joey and Gigi were sad that he must return home but happy because his visit had been such fun.

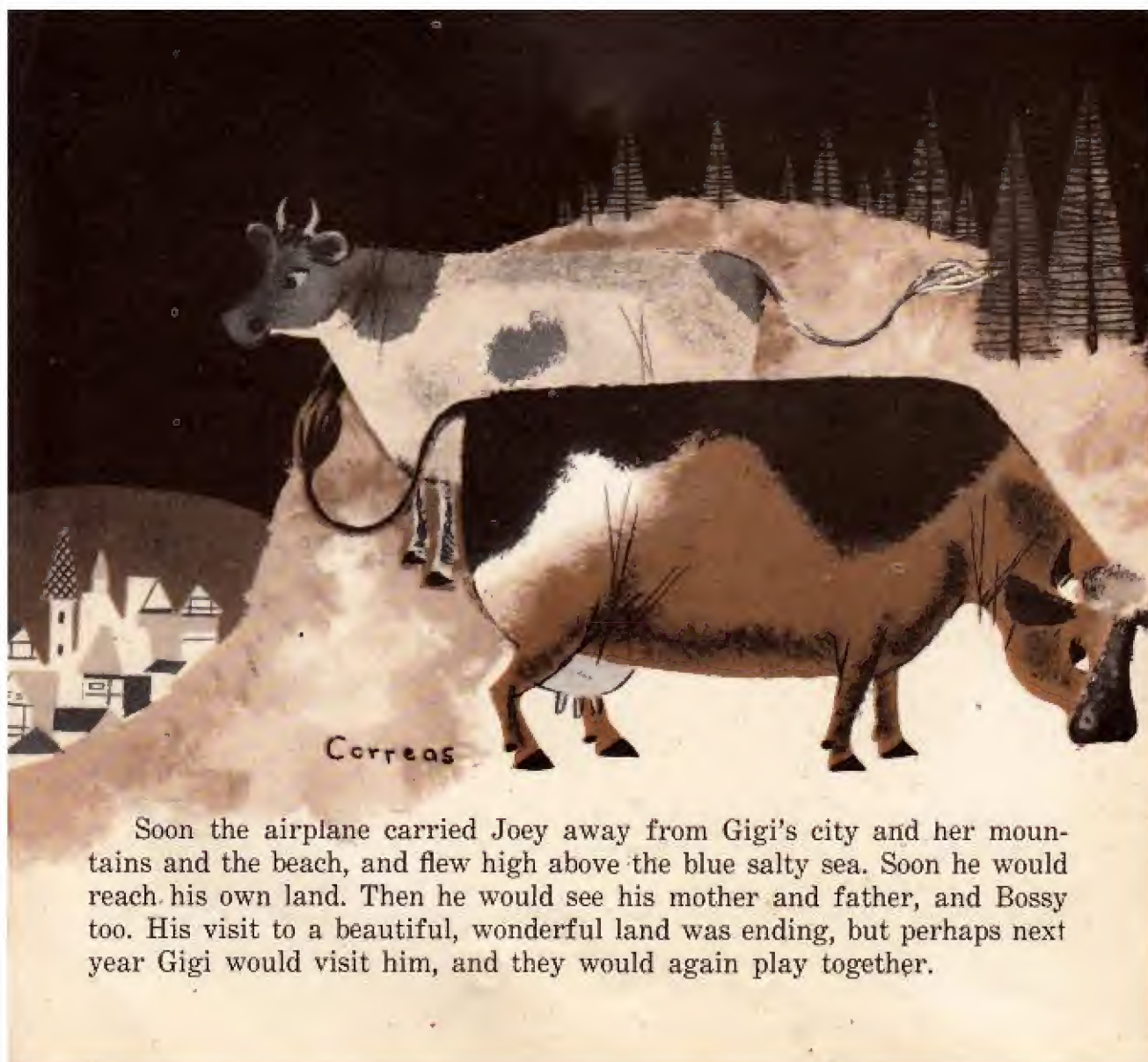
"Please carry my best wishes to Bossy," Gigi said, "and she must hear all about your trip."

"Bossy can't understand talk about trips," Joey replied.

"How do you know she can't?" retorted Gigi. "Anyway Bossy will know you are being friendly and kind, and happy and that will make her happy too."







Soon the airplane carried Joey away from Gigi's city and her mountains and the beach, and flew high above the blue salty sea. Soon he would reach his own land. Then he would see his mother and father, and Bossy too. His visit to a beautiful, wonderful land was ending, but perhaps next year Gigi would visit him, and they would again play together.





